

2018 Current Fiscal Year Report: Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory
Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

1533

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

12/04/2017

6. Expected Renewal Date

12/04/2019

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 3115 (1988)

13. Effective Date

12/02/1980

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

1

16b. Report Date

03/08/2018

Report Title

Annual Report for FY17

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 2 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
The Council met to consider fourteen proposals to change hunting and trapping regulations for Federal public lands in Alaska and to develop the issues to include in its FY 2017 annual report, as provided for in Section 805 of ANILCA.	11/08/2017	11/09/2017
The Council met to elect new Council officers, to develop Federal Fisheries proposals to change the Federal Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands and Waters in Alaska for 2020-2021, to develop proposals to change nonrural determinations, to consider State of Alaska Board of Fish proposals, and to review and approve the FY 2017 Council's Annual Report, as well as to continue hunter ethic education program development discussions	02/28/2018	03/01/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00

18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$113,429.00	\$116,832.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$9,527.00	\$9,813.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$6,285.00	\$6,474.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$26,400.00	\$27,192.00
18d. Total	\$155,641.00	\$160,311.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.15	1.15

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

All meetings were open to the public and provided opportunity for members of the public, tribes, organizations, and agency representatives to participate in discussions and share information relevant to Federal subsistence management. At these public meetings the Council received public comments and considered technical information on fish and wildlife populations and subsequently made recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board encompassing consideration of the scientific data, local knowledge, and experience of subsistence hunters and fishers in the region. The Council provided recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board on nine wildlife regulatory proposals the Eastern Interior Region and one proposal for the change of Statewide regulation. The Council drafted correspondence to the Federal Subsistence Board in the form of an Annual Report to bring awareness to subsistence and fish and wildlife conservation concerns in the region. The Council also drafted, in cooperation with the Southcentral Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, a formal letter to the Federal Subsistence Board asking that the Board submit a request to the Secretary of the Interior to engage in rulemaking related to authorization to issue Federal subsistence hunting permits. The Council also drafted a formal comment letter on Alaska Board of Fisheries 2017/2018 Proposals 230, 231, 232, 233, and 237 and Resolution on Overproduction and Operation of Private Non-profit Hatcheries. The Council continues to track and participate in subsistence fish and wildlife management issues on the Federal lands within their region, which includes Denali, Yukon Charley, and Wrangell St. Elias National Parks and Preserves; Arctic, Yukon Flats, and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuges, and extensive BLM lands in the Eastern Interior and Central Yukon regions.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Members broadly represent geographic, cultural, user, and gender diversity present within the region. This is ensured through a rigorous outreach/recruitment effort and a thorough evaluation and recommendation process. Applicants are evaluated according to the

following criteria: they must be a resident of the region in which they applied; have extensive knowledge of the region's fish and wildlife resources; have extensive knowledge of the region's subsistence uses, customs, and traditions; have extensive knowledge of the region's sport, commercial, and other nonsubsistence uses; and have evident leadership and communication skills. The applicants, their references, and key contacts within the region are interviewed by panels of Federal agency staff. These panels meet to rate and rank the applicants. This information is considered by the Interagency Staff Committee which makes its recommendation to the Federal Subsistence Board. The Board then meets to review the applicants and make their recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. The Board recommendations balance points of view represented on the Council with the Council's function, which is to advise the Board on matters pertaining to subsistence. The Board also considers other factors such as geographic representation within the region. The Secretaries must concur regarding appointments. The entire process takes approximately 9 months to complete.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council generally meets twice each calendar year. The Council's recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board are not only relevant, but have significant impact on regional residents, because, while the Federal Subsistence Board may decide not to adopt a Council recommendation regarding the taking of fish and wildlife, it can do so only if such a recommendation fails to meet one or more of the three criteria in Title VIII, Section 805(c) of ANILCA. As much as possible, meetings are held in rural communities to provide the opportunity for personal involvement by those most directly impacted by Federal subsistence management. In FY 2018 the Council met twice in Fairbanks, which is on the road system and the main hub community in the Eastern Interior region. The meetings were held in Fairbanks twice due to budget restrictions that prevented gathering in a more remote rural community. Meeting in local rural communities is important to the Council's function to accurately represent the whole region and facilitate local participation.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

ANILCA established the Regional Advisory Councils as a public forum for the expression of views and information originating from the local communities of the region and to provide recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding management of fish and wildlife resources for subsistence on Federal public lands. The members of the Council and the public participants provide the expertise of subsistence people to the process of forming regulations that govern their lives and to the management of Federal public lands they use for subsistence purposes. The Council is a vital link between the

Federal Subsistence Board and the rural residents whose lives the Board's decisions affect. This does not change from year to year.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Not applicable - all meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

In FY 2018, the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council met in Fairbanks on November 8-9, 2017 and on February 28 - March 1, 2018.

Designated Federal Officer

Katerina Wessels Subsistence Council Coordinator

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bassich, Andrew	01/23/2003	12/02/2020	Subsistence	Representative Member
Entsminger, Susan	12/21/2001	12/02/2019	Commercial/Sport	Representative Member
Erhart, Lester	02/08/2008	09/15/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Firmin, Andrew	02/08/2008	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Glanz, William	10/25/2005	12/02/2020	Subsistence	Representative Member
Jagow, Charlie	12/11/2017	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Koehler, Michael	12/11/2017	12/02/2019	Subsistence	Representative Member
Umphenour, Virgil	12/21/2001	12/02/2018	Commercial/Sport	Representative Member
Woodruff, Donald	10/05/2004	12/02/2018	Subsistence	Representative Member
Wright, Robert	12/11/2017	12/02/2020	Subsistence	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

Narrative Description

Since Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act in 1980, Title VIII has provided for the continuation of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands by rural residents in Alaska. Title VIII required the creation of Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to enable rural residents to have a meaningful role in Federal subsistence management. The Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture subsequently established the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The Program is a multi-agency effort that includes the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the USDA Forest Service. These agencies manage the Federal public lands where subsistence activities take place, including waters running through or next to Federal public lands and limited marine jurisdiction. The Secretaries delegated management authority for subsistence uses in Alaska to the Federal Subsistence Board, which is comprised of the regional directors of the five Federal public land managers in Alaska and a representative appointed by the Secretaries to serve as Chair as well as two public member representatives. The Board is the decision making body that oversees the Federal Subsistence Management Program. The ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils

provide recommendations and information to the Board, review policies and management plans, provide a public forum, develop proposals, evaluate current and anticipated subsistence needs, and perform other duties required by the Board. The Councils make recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife. The Councils meet at least twice a year. Council chairs attend at least two Board meetings a year to present the recommendations of their Councils and provide knowledge and advice to the Board.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Council provides recommendations and information to the Board, reviews policies and management plans, provides a public forum, develops proposals, evaluates current and anticipated subsistence needs, appoints members to the National Park Service subsistence resource commissions, and performs other duties required by the Board. The Council makes recommendations to the Board regarding proposed changes to fish and wildlife regulations; management plans; policies, standards, and guidelines; determinations of customary and traditional use of subsistence resources; fisheries research projects; determinations of rural status; subsistence use allocations; and other matters related to subsistence take of fish and wildlife.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

\$100,000 - \$500,000
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Cost Savings Comments

Regional Advisory Council members are all volunteers. They provide expert knowledge and advice to the Federal Subsistence Board which the Board cannot otherwise obtain. Without the Regional Advisory Council, the program would need to greatly increase staff and research funding. The researchers would then need to seek information from the very people, or similar people, who now make up the Council. The Board adopts a preponderance of the Council's recommendations, which may lower resource management costs.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

228

Number of Recommendations Comments

In FY 2018 the Council made 12 recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board regarding proposed changes in subsistence wildlife regulations and other matters.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

93%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board to consider and adopt the report and recommendations of the Regional Advisory Council concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board may choose not to follow a recommendation only if it determines the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife conservation, or would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. Under these criteria, the Board generally adopts the Council's recommendations.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

7%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In some cases, the Federal Subsistence Board deferred to the regulatory proposal of another Council from the region affected if there was a difference in a recommendation made by two or more Regional Advisory Councils.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

ANILCA, Title VIII, Section 805(c) requires the Federal Subsistence Board (acting for the Secretary) to inform the Regional Advisory Council when the Board chooses not to adopt a Council recommendation concerning the taking of fish and wildlife on the public lands within the region for subsistence uses. The Board has expanded this to include reporting on those Council recommendations it does adopt and those it adopts with modification. These actions and their justifications are written in what is referred to as the 805(c) Letter. Board decisions regarding other matters, such as the rural determinations, for which the Council makes recommendations are reported to the Council in a less formal manner by the Subsistence Council Coordinator or the Council Chair.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

New subsistence regulations frequently require the managing agencies to reprioritize staff and other resources. Other recommendations accepted by the Federal Subsistence Board may also require reallocation of agency funds. The Council also makes recommendations regarding fisheries information needs within the region and for annual funding for fisheries research projects related to those needs.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

There is an extensive effort to announce the public meetings of the Regional Council via news releases, radio public service announcements, Web site postings, Facebook postings, and newspaper ads. The agenda, meeting materials, and meeting transcripts are available on the Federal Subsistence Management Program website and are mailed upon request to the communities within the region and interested organizations and agencies. The Regional Coordinator has an 800 number to provide easier access for the public and to disseminate the actions of the Regional Council. There are various publications produced to share the actions of the Regional Council. These include, but are not limited to, meeting booklets for their semiannual meetings, newsletters, topic-specific informational letters, brochures, and public handouts.